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R E M A R K S

Entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, are respectfully requested in light of the remarks which follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her telephone call of December 9, 2004, to discuss claim amendments and allowable subject matter.

With this Supplemental Amendment and Reply, Applicants have amended Claims 1-4, 18, 21, and 25. Claims 2-4, 18, 21, and 25 have been amended to remove "protein." The remaining amendments to these claims have been introduced to more clearly recite the claimed invention. The term "recombinant" was also removed from Claim 1 after discussion with the Examiner.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite "a mammalian FGF, which comprises a heparin binding domain and wherein said heparin binding domain comprises substitution of one or more positively charged amino acid residues with a neutral or negatively charged amino acid residues, and wherein the substitution of the one or more residues occurs in one or more residues corresponding to residues 128 through 138 of human basic FGF." The amendment more clearly reflects that the area in which the substitution occurs corresponds to the domain of residues 128 to 138 of human basic FGF. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be located at least at page 11, line 3 to page 13, line 16, and the original claims.

After entry of the Supplemental Amendment and Reply, Claims 5, 12-14, and 28 are canceled without prejudice of or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 will be pending, and Claims 15-27 will be indicated as allegedly withdrawn. Applicants reiterate that withdrawn Claims 15-27 should in fact be "Pending" and not "Withdrawn," for the reasons stated in the Amendment and Reply dated December 2, 2004.

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CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Supplemental Amendment and Reply or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

In the event any further fees are due to maintain pendency of this application, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,
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